

**The Federal Diary**



**By Mike Causey**

The Army has completed a delicate mopping-up operation, following a touchy skirmish in which an employee was exiled from a cafeteria in a Government building.

She was told to take her appetite elsewhere, after complaining that her food bill was wrong. In the argument that followed, she charged that the cashier shoved her food plate around.

The verbal duel took place in a privately operated cafeteria in Temporary Building 3, at 2d and R Streets sw. It serves about 3800 military and civilian workers of the Military District of Washington. Eating places are scarce around Tempo B.

According to the aggrieved employee, she challenged the cashier, as she had done before, about a mistake in her bill. In the recalculation that followed, she said, the cashier touched her food plates.

When the manager stepped in, the Army worker said, he told her to leave and never darken his cafeteria line again. This all happened Wednesday, about 1230 hours.

Fellow workers started unofficial mediation the next day, with the help of the building commandant. While a cease-fire was being arranged, the employee ate lunch at her desk.

An agreement was reached between the Military District and the cafeteria. It provides full reinstatement of eating rights for the Army employee, and a ban on cafeteria employees touching plates of food,

once they reach the tray. If cafeteria personnel want a plate moved, to check for hidden crackers or butter slices, they must request the patron to move or lift the plate.

**Cash Preferred:** Agencies with employees traveling overseas have been getting word that some workers are having trouble cashing checks. They say that many hotels refuse to cash a check for more than the exact service charge, even when U.S. Government identification is produced.

**Leo M. Pellerzi**, the Civil Service Commission's general counsel, is moving to the Justice Department. He has been appointed assistant at-

torney general for administration.

Pellerzi is best known in Federal employe circles for his decision on the use of contract personnel, which has caused most agencies to completely re-examine their outside hiring practices.

**Decision:** The U.S. Court of Claims has held a postal inspector who was fired for alleged misconduct on and off the job is entitled to back pay, because the Post Office Department violated its own rules in the separation.

Decision 386-65 upheld the claim of John A. Fletcher Jr. on the grounds that he wasn't given an opportunity to cross-examine some witnesses who

gave evidence against him. He was fired in 1964.

Among other points, the Court noted that the Department's hearing officer admitted into evidence adverse affidavits, despite Fletcher's "timely objection" that he was thereby deprived of the right of cross-examination.

The U.S. Information Agency will try a trial retirement program for its Civil Service

and Foreign Service employees.

Eligible employees can "retire"

for one year, with a job guarantee if they want to come back after that time. USIA estimates that 300 employees meet the age and serv-

ice requirements for the program. The Agriculture Department has been operating a

similar one-year plan for some time.